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5 Held for Plotting Negro Axis Colony

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N.Y., N.Y.

Accused of Seeking to Turn Race to Support of Japan

SEP 14 1942

In the first indictment here since Pearl Harbor for sedition conspiracy, the government charged today that four Negroes and a white Christian Fronter had plotted a grandiose scheme in Harlem to transplant 20,000,000 American Negroes to a new country in Africa where they would flourish under the "benevolent" protection of Japan.

For a year or more, the Ethiopian Pacific Movement has been meeting in a small hall at 113 Lenox Ave., where, according to U. S. Attorney Mathias F. Correa, "a fantastic dream of a coalition between Africa and Japan in an Axis-dominated world" was freely expounded upon.

'When Hirohito Comes.'

The FBI agents were present, taking down statements in shorthand, among them such utterances as the following:

When the Emperor of Japan comes to New York, what are you going to say you did for him?

We are waiting to put MacArthur into the cave where he belongs tonight. SEP 14 1942

Those indicted were:

Leonard Robert Jordan, 42, of 239 W. 116th St., leader of the movement, said to have deserted the British Navy in the last war and entered here illegally in 1920 by jumping ship. A West Indian, he once served as quartermaster on the Japanese vessel, Singapore Maru.

Joseph Hartrey, Christian Fronter and former follower of Joseph McWilliams, soapbox anti-Semite of Yorkville. Hartrey is being brought back from Fort Dix, having recently enlisted.

Lester Eugene Holness, a Negro, of 14 W. 119th St., secretary of the movement and usually chairman at the meetings.

JAMES HENRY THORNHILL, 41, address unknown, who recently was fiued $10 and given a 60-day suspended sentence for disorderly conduct, as a result of a street corner meeting in which he allegedly made anti-Semitic and anti-British remarks. He is a follower of the late Marcus Aurelius Garvey, provisional president of the African Republic.

"REV." RALPH GREEN BEST, alias Ralph Thomas, of 62 W. 118th St. SEP 14 1942

Few Attended.

Mr. Correa pointed out that the meetings never were attended by more than 200 persons, and that many loyal Negroes had denounced the group to federal authorities. Statements from responsible Negro leaders which approved the indictments were made public.

"The colored people have been as quick as any group within our population to repudiate all efforts to win them over to the Axis line of propaganda," Mr. Correa said. "Responsible leaders have expressed the indignation of all loyal Negro citizens at this attempt to identify Japanese propaganda with the legitimate campaign against racial discrimination."

Six years ago Jordan had the movement incorporated under state laws, its ostensible purpose being "to create and promote a better understanding and more friendly relations between races, nations and classes of people." However, the statements taken down at the meetings by FBI men differed sharply from that version of its aims.

New Pearl Harbor.

"We are going to knock out Pearl Harbor again," one speaker said, "and after we knock out Pearl Harbor we are coming into Vera Cruz, Mexico, and then we are coming into Arizona, and if you are on the wrong side there will be no money for you.

"Japan is going to liberate the dark races, and all intelligent people should realize now that the battle Japan is fighting against the Western powers is the Battle of Africa, the Battle of Asia, the battle of the dark men here, in Central America and the West Indies." SEP 14 1942

The audience, some of them American Negro troops, were urged to resist armed service, according to the government, and the Negro soldiers were specifically counseled:

"Go back to your outfit and start the whispering campaign. When they tell you to remember Pearl Harbor, you reply .Remember Africa.'"

Other statements predicted the collapse of Russia this fall, revolution in Central and South America, a Jap invasion of the United States this Fall, with the United States suing for peace in three months time, and a similar collapse of Canada. Japan's "invincibility" was lauded, United Nations victories derided.

"False Propaganda."

"Don't believe the false propaganda of the Allies," one speaker was quoted as having said. "Be guided only by reports from Tokyo." SEP 14 1942

Negro leaders giving out statements on the loyalty of their race and their approval of any proper indictments irrespective of race or color,i ncluded the Rev. A. Clayton Powell, Councilman and editor of People's Voice; P. M. H. Savory, editor of the Amsterdam News, and William E. Clark, city editor of the New York Age.

At the recent disorderly conduct trial of Thornhill, a native of St. Croix and president of the African Nationalist Pioneering Movement, Magistrate Raphael P. Koenig deprecated the case as "not very important" and said Thornhill had desired to be helpful to his people.

The present sedition conspiracy carries a maximum of 20 years imprisonment and $10,000 fine.

7,000 Adopt New 'Harlem Charter'

Dec. 9, 1942
Daily Worker

By Eugene Gordon

The people of the United States were presented Monday night with a precise, detailed program for Negro rights and with a review of the situation regarding the gains and losses in the struggle for these rights after one year of war. The program was presented as a war measure in the struggle for victory over foreign and domestic fascism. It was labelled the "Harlem Charter."

The "Charter" was presented to a Golden Gate audience of 7,000 jammed into the auditorium by City Councilman Adam Clayton Powell. Powell also reviewed the Negro's gains and losses since Pearl Harbor.

A. Clayton Powell

LOCAL GAINS

Local gains included the employment of Negroes in such war plants as Sperry Gyroscope, Ford Instrument, Western Electric and ship building; increased employment in Lerner's, Bloomingdale's, Macy's, Lord and Taylor's, Chock Full O' Nuts; employment in public utilities—transportation, telephone, telegraph, light; jobs with leading finance, beer, beverage, liquor, cigarette and bread companies; employment as pharmacists in chain and local stores; on City College staff; nurses in all hospitals; non-discrimination policy of the United States Employment Service; creation of metropolitan council of the Fair Employment Practice Committee; youth training; Governor's anti-discrimination committee; Mahoney Act to abolish bias in certain newspaper advertising.

Dec 9 1942

On the national field the Negro people advanced, according to Powell, in employment, politics, "in print," "on the air," and "in films." The Fair Employment Practice Committee broke down bars here and there throughout the country. Skilled Negro workers found jobs where formerly they were snubbed without a second glance. Negroes found positions also in key war-governing bureaus.

Passage of the Soldiers' Vote Bill, giving service men the right to vote regardless of the vicinity in which they previously resided, was definitely a gain. So was the defeat of Talmadge in Georgia and Dixon in Alabama. And although the anti-poll tax bill was lynched in the United States Senate, the Negro people and their friends had forced its safe passage through the House.

NATIONAL GAINS

The Congress of Industrial Organizations won the devotion of hundreds of thousands by its forthright stand in defense of Negro rights. Enlightened white persons, like Pearl Buck and Wendell Willkie, spoke out in support of all-embracing democracy. The Roosevelt Administration, through Wallace and Welles, envisaged the future of the Common Man. McNutt demanded the right of Negroes to work wherever qualified.

Several states outlawed jim crow and discrimination. Additional training facilities were opened for radio operators in Merchant Marine at Gallups' Island. In the armed forces the Negro was taken into the Navy, the Coast Guard, the Air Corps. There was mixed officer training in Georgia, while Negroes were employed in the Signal Corps and the tank corps.

Dec. 9, 1942

BEGINNING OF UNITY

Colonel Benjamin O. Davis was promoted to brigadier general, and Hugh Mulzac was appointed skipper of the 10,000-ton Liberty freighter the Booker T. Washington. (He sailed with an all-nations crew.) "Fortune," "Harpers," "Atlantic Monthly," "Survey Graphic," "Theatrical Arts," and other magazines "favorably portrayed the Negro." The motion picture industry promised to stop treating the Negro like bills; failure to enforce Executive Order 8802; continuance of discrimination in employment and training policies; mistreatment of representatives of the Negro people in the U. S. Senate; continued lynchings, and killings of Negro soldiers, and segregation by the Red Cross with its blood banks; lack of complete integration in the armed forces; no Negro WAVES and Negro WAACS segregated; retention of Negroes in unskilled and semi-skilled jobs; Administration's failure to take a more positive stand on the role and the treatment of the Negro in a democracy at war; "lack of clarification of the Atlantic Charter"; failure to smash completely such fifth columnists as the KKK, Father Coughlin, the Christian Front, and other pro-fascist Negro-haters and labor-baiters; "adverse publicity in the press—'crime wave in Harlem.'"

THE 'HARLEM CHARTER'

Now for the "Harlem Charter"! A preamble said: "We present this plan with the confidence that some of these objectives will be attained in 1943; others may take longer. These objectives can be achieved only by the unity of all people and groups—church, youth, women, fraternal, social and civic—in a strong people's movement."

12/9/42

The "Charter" embraces Employment, Labor, Civil Rights, Housing Health, Social Service, Education Consumer and War. It is so extensive that we can only pick out items here and there:

"More jobs of all types in public utilities—bus, telephone and electric companies."—Employment.

"Encouragement of greater trade-union activity and affiliation"; "fight for inclusion in all trade unions and full recognition and advancement within those unions that now admit Negroes."—Labor.

"The establishment of a FREE Legal Aid Bureau for all people who have been victimized."—Civil Rights.

To continue the fight for lower rents and better living conditions. —Housing.

To "work for a low-cost hospitalization plan" and to "demand complete clinic facilities in Negro areas."—Health.

To establish "a full recreational program, using all city buildings and park facilities on a full-time basis."—Social Service. Day nurseries for war-working mothers was emphasized.

More Negroes on the faculties of New York City colleges, and appointment of a Negro to the Board of Education, and to the Board of Higher Education.—Education.

A public market in Harlem and enforcement of OPA orders.—Consumers.

Dec 9, 1942

The committee will endeavor to end discrimination and segregation in the armed forces. It will, above all, "seek the passage of the Kilgore-Tolan-Pepper bill for establishing a central planning organization." The committee will work for "the winning of the war and the peace, with full democracy for all black, brown, yellow and white peoples of the world."

This epoch-making presentation was made without any illusions that the adoption of the "Harlem Charter," in whole or in part, would be more than a long forward step on the road to complete democracy for the Negro people. The point was emphasized again and again.

an inferior while the radio in general increased the number of programs favorable to the Negro people.

There was the beginning of unification of the Negro people" the new Negro", represented by Randolph, Dobias White, Bethune Powell, Ferguson etc. "speaking out boldly. The fight for civil liberties was intensified, sometimes with cheering results.

In the international arena there was" the liberation of Ethiopia the formation of the United

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